

## "The Bible In The Home"

Read before the Pontiac City Federation of Farmington.

The reading world of today is literally deluged with a multiplicity of books of every variety. In looking over the annual report of the Detroit Libraries which came to me recently, I read that the home circulation had reached the sum of more than six million books. The unemployment of the past year with the lack of money to spend on movies and other paid amusements giving more time for reading has undoubtedly had something to do with the increase in number of readers. But what are they reading? Someone has said, "Tell me what books you read, and I will tell you what you are, what kind of friends you have, and the sort of life you lead." Referring again to the report I find that the fine arts lead in non-fiction with a good margin, literature takes second place with the useful arts following closely. Sociology and the natural sciences come next, other classes remaining about the same. This last I surmise includes fiction, although it is not mentioned.

But we know that the fiction of today is read by every man, woman and child. Some of it is instructive and pleasing as depicting more or less truly, human life. Others are offensive in a literary as well as in a moral sense, and leave a bad taste in the mouth and a scar on the soul. Most of these are thrown on one side as not worth a second reading. We wonder what it is all about, and if it is worth the time given to the reading.

Among all the innumerable stars that shine in the firmament above us, there is one that is most eagerly looked for by the mariner who has lost his bearings in the midst of a storm tossed sea. It is the north star, The Pole Star. Its rays are not variable, and it is always there in one place, and the sailor who keeps his eyes fixed on that star will be guided in safety to a place of refuge.

So in this vast wilderness of books that gives so little security or satisfaction, and only a transient pleasure, there is one that stands alone like the Pole Star undaunted amidst all the clouds of error and defaming of an angry world, saying—"Look to me and I will guide you home over this tempestuous sea of life." This book is the Bible. The word Bible is of Greek origin and signifies simply "The Book." It is expressive of its superiority over all other literary productions. The first four words in the Bible are truly sublime and strike one with awe, and also assure the supremacy of the great "I am."

Scientists have endeavored with all the force of their finite minds to overthrow this statement and have advanced many theories of their own about the origin of life. They have not yet been able to get back of the plain statement "In the beginning God." Science deals with that which can be known or seen, but beyond that lies the realm of infinity where human minds cannot enter. We live in two worlds the seen and the unseen. The seen is ours to accept even if we cannot always fully understand. The unseen is God's hands veiled from our eyes until we enter the promised land, as Paul assures us NOW we see thru a glass darkly but THEN face to face. People in the ancient times were not troubled about the scientists of today with the problem of creation. God lived nearer to his people then, than now. He communed with them and they were convinced, as we ought to be that God was a supreme being whom we can understand only thru faith.

The book of Job is the oldest book still in existence, and when God was trying to convince him of how little he knew, there were some very pertinent questions he put to him. Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? DECLARE if thou hast understanding. Where upon were the foundations thereof fastened, or who laid the cornerstone thereof when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? Canst thou loose the bands of Orion? As it comes to tell us that winter with its snow and ice and its long winter nights are upon us.

Again he was asked, Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? In other words art thou an astronomer? Art thou acquainted with the laws of the heavenly bodies? This question was asked long before man knew of the law of gravity. Scholars of today claim that the naming of the many planets mentioned in the Bible is far back of any known human history. All thru the Bible there are many passages to prove that God is the creator of all things. David tells us in Psalms 8 when I consider the heavens, the work of thy fingers,

the moon and stars which thou hast ordained, what is man that thou art mindful of him, and what is he that thou dost exalt him? familiar with the again utters his convictions that "The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament sheweth his handy work. Day unto day they utter speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard."

All Christianity regards the Bible as a revelation of God to man, and Jews and Christians alike ascribe the authorship of the Old Testament to God himself, by spiritually influencing or inspiring the minds of men of wisdom, who lived in fellowship with him; with perfect knowledge of the transactions to be recorded or predicted in a way suitable to the end in view.

The Bible is a book for all time and all ages, young or old. Every phase of life has its counterpart in the Bible and a special message or promise suitable for every need, which is just as applicable now as in the time it was written. "There is joy and hope and comfort in the reading; if we scan its pages our with earnest heart."

The legal literature of the Bible has been to a large extent incorporated into the laws of our country. The ten commandments have stood as a special message ages along man's pathway. To call them old fashioned is not new but is just as foolish as it always has been. The ten commandments and the multiplicity of laws go far back in the history of the world but they are still usable and quite up to date. The Bible is greater than all other literature because it records the highest and noblest spiritual achievements of humanity.

Someone has said that next to the saving knowledge of the religion of Jesus Christ, the greatest thing ever established on earth is the home. In the garden of Eden was the first home, its surroundings were ideal and God's blessing rested upon it. A divine institution for man was made in God's own image, a perfect being. Marriage is also sanctioned by God, for he said it is not good that man should be alone, so he gave him Eve, and told them to be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth which command was given with blessings to follow. I once read a very beautiful little story about a man who many years before had planted a crab apple tree. In after years he grafted a new branch of a July Sweet. The strength of the crab apple was given to the tender graft and the sweetness of the July Sweet gave richness to the product of the tree, strength and sweetness had grown together until the apple tree produced the most delicious fruit one could taste. I thought that a good illustration of true marriage where each gives to the other its best. Can you walk together except they be agreed. The apostle Peter was a married man and so probably had personal experience with a woman's natural love of pretty clothes, and as he says likewise women are in subjection to their own husbands, that if they obey not the word, they also may without the word, be won by the conversation of the wives as the Lord has commanded. If it be not that outward adorning of plating the hair and wearing of gold, or putting on of apparel. But let it be the adorning of a meek and quiet spirit which is in the sight of God of great price, and Paul whom we think of as a crusty old bachelor because he said women should keep silent as to the Lord, the husbands they must love their wives as their own bodies, and for this cause a man should leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

As the idea of birth control was not that of in those days there were large families of children and they were considered as a token of God's favor and there was always that wonderful possibility that the coming child might be the foretold Messiah. But they were not left in doubt as to how they should bring them up, for in the 6th, chapter of Deuteronomy Moses the great law-giver, lays down strict instruction. He secures their attention by "reaching their ears." The Lord our God is one Lord, and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might, and thou shalt teach these words diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. Then he goes on to say that all this was not done in secret but openly. And thou shalt bind them upon thy hands, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes, and thou shalt write them upon the

posts of thy house and on thy gates, and Paul centuries after tells parents to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Jesus said, whosoever shall confess me before men, I will confess him before my Father which is in heaven. So long as children are under the parents' care they are responsible for their religious development, and it is their greatest contribution to their moral welfare, for a man without religion is usually the man who is not strictly moral.

Manners in the home has already been discussed, but I would like to add that, if the fruits of the spirit as Paul enumerates them, were consciously observed in every home, the world would be a changed world. Love, Joy, Peace, Long Suffering, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Meekness and Self Control. At the time Psychologists and educators are emphasizing the interval they call the pre-school age parents have almost unlimited power to mould the character and personality of the child, and they are responsible to God for its development. Any child reflects what it sees and hears and one who has the privilege of being in a Christian home is in a great advantage. Some think a little child cannot understand when you tell them about God, but then who does really understand? Ruskin once said that little children often hold a truth with their small fingers which the grasp of man cannot hold. It is because they have not learned to doubt and argue nor can they but accept the word of God as a loving father who cares and watches over us. Little folks are very literal in their thinking and one needs to tell them things in the simplest and simplest way and be led along gradually. As Jacob of old said when about to begin a long journey. "I will lead on softly as the feet of the children shall be able to endure."

My niece told me many a long year ago, a story of her first kindergarten in Alpena, which illustrates this fact. She was telling me the little folks the beautiful Christmas story of the birth of the "little Lord Jesus" who was born in a manger because there was no room in the inn. (Explaining to them it was the same as our hotels.) Then she had the children tell her the story. One little tot got along very well until the ending when he said with great gusto "because there was no room in the Church Hill House" that being the one and only hotel he knew about. There are many fascinating stories in the Bible that little children can appreciate. Tell them about the boy who howled and afterwards what a great leader he became. Tell them of the child of prayer, little Samuel of David one of the most remarkable men in either sacred or secular history, and many others. Encourage them to commit verses to memory and, as they are able, whole chapters. In an old Bible of mine I have written the chapters of the Bible that Ruskin committed to memory when a child. There are 27 in all. What an influence for good on his whole life they must have had. The life story of our martyred President Lincoln, tells of his having nothing but the Bible in his early years, and how he poured over and over its pages by the light from the fireplace, until he had learned many parts of it by heart, and his after life and his marvelous speeches were premeated with the lofty language and principles of this great book.

When Calvin Coolidge was a very small boy his grandmother gave him a Bible to read when he was between three and four years of age. He read the first chapter of John so many times to his grandfather who was an invalid, that he learned it by heart. It was this chapter that the Bible was opened, when the solemn oath was taken as President. The knowledge of the truths of the Bible lies at the foundation of his character, the word of God and a Christian home were the foundations in the life of the Ex-President.

Henry Ward Beecher once said the 23rd Psalm will go singing to your children and my children, and to their children thru all the generations of time, nor will it fold its wings till the last pillar is safe and time ended; and then, it shall fly back to the bosom of God whence it issued, and sound on mingled with all those sounds of celestial joy which make heaven musical forever. And that reminds me that music is a great asset to the Christian home, and seems to be one of the necessities of life for all people. "reaching their ears" to the "savage ear." From the fourth chapter of Genesis where it speaks of Jubal as the inventor of the lyre and of Shemer's pipe, and that shall teach these words diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. Then he goes on to say that all this was not done in secret but openly. And thou shalt bind them upon thy hands, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes, and thou shalt write them upon the

content to live (A word to radio fans) "A bad tempered person is like static, interfering with the music of life, and making continual and meaningless discord in the home and out—Moral: be temperate, or you will be the cause of static."

Joshua Reynolds, standing in front of his great picture "The Infant Hercules," was asked whether it had been an easy task to depict him in a sarcastic manner. "There are ten pictures under that, one better, some worse." A great amount of labor and patience is required of an artist to accomplish his dream, a perfect work. God is a great artist and the universe is his canvas, and Man, his great master piece, is the actor in the scene, but it is an unfinished task, for man is only in the nursery stage. A wise writer has declared that if man is possibly the noblest of all the Creator's work of art, he is also the most unfinished, but if unfinished, he is yet too good to be blotted out, for there is growth in all things. For the Bible says that the child and the young man should grow in grace, and knowledge as new-born babes grow by the milk of the word, into an holy temple. Our Father has planted good thoughts in the field of our hearts, but does he not also say we must do our own cultivating. Robert Browning said "It is not my business to remake myself, but to make the very best of what I have." Our Father has all history has it been possible to declare "It is finished." The greatness of our country depends upon the young people of today and they are counted as never before with the of all kinds, that underlie the very foundations of morality. As a talk to the Boy Scouts of America, our pastor.

theme, "The four-square life," each side of which should be equally developed. Physical, Mental, Social and Spiritual. Jesus was the perfect example of a perfectly square life. He developed the physical by his long journeys on foot thru out all Palestine on his missions of mercy. His mentality is shown by the keen wit with which he answered the Pharisees, who thought by their questions to entrap Him. He was of the social nature for he mingled with people at wedding feasts and dinners and he loved little children. His spiritual side was developed by communing with God thru prayer. And how often he prayed!

Young people are naturally full of high spirits and power, and are, like high water, full of foam energy, and life. But high water always runs in the right direction. So energy and vim standing for high ideals, can be a great power when used in the right way. And they (Young People) should have courage. Had you thought that Christ chose as his disciples young fishermen because they were vigorous and brave? Bravery never was more needed for young Christians than at the present time. They should remember Peter when he attempted to walk on the water to go to Jesus and began to sink. He made no attempt to go back to the boat, but went on and tried again. To be afraid and yet go on is a great exhibition of courage. This country can never be truly great until its homes are permeated with Christian principles. For where the home fails society degenerates. The home as a Divine institution should be the center of all good influences. During the world

war we used to sing "Keep the Home Fires Burning," now in another sense may we keep them burning so that their light may show that we still abide by the teachings of that ageless Book, The Bible.

Mrs. M. E. Wilbur.

### FARMINGTON ACRES

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Fifoot had as Sunday guests, William Heeney and Mr. Cantell of Detroit.

Miss Imogene Young of Parker Avenue was Tuesday evening dinner guest of Miss Gertrude McIntire.

Mr. and Mrs. Asa Sherwood and son Asa Jr. were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. I. E. Sherwood.

Mr. Patrick Welsh of Detroit was Sunday guest of Miss Amanda Markham.

Stanley Grieve is in Detroit seriously ill.

Mr. and Mrs. James Wolford of Dearborn were Sunday afternoon guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Billig.

Mr. and Mrs. John Jantovsky visited Mr. and Mrs. Walter Nark in Garden City Monday.

Little Miss Isabel Greive is steadily improving from her recent illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Ducharme and family of Detroit, Mr. Mrs. Joseph Dupuis of Detroit, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Cloud, daughter Betty were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Ducharme.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Dann of Wayne.

Mr. H. A. McIntyre and Mr. R. P. Robinson attended a lecture at the Roosevelt High School Friday evening.

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